

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 92-110-C - ORDER NO. 2006-457  
AUGUST 11, 2006

IN RE: Dual Party Relay	)	ORDER MAINTAINING
	)	MONTHLY ACCESS
	)	CHARGE AND
	)	APPROVING BUDGET
	)	WITH CONDITIONS
	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) for consideration of the June 20, 2006 letter from the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) which proposes several budget options for the Dual Party Relay Service for fiscal year 2006-2007. At the request of the Commission, Katie Morgan of the ORS made a detailed presentation with regard to the available budget options and answered questions of the Commission during the regular Commission meeting held on July 19, 2006. Because of the reasoning stated below, we approve Budget Option #2 as referenced in said letter, which funds limited program growth while maintaining the access line charge constant at \$0.15. We also impose certain conditions on this approval as outlined below.

With regard to the monthly access charge, S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-2530(A) (Supp. 2005) states that the Commission may require all local exchange telephone companies operating in this State to impose a monthly charge not to exceed twenty-five (25) cents on all residential and business local exchange access facilities as necessary to

fund the operation of the dual party relay system in South Carolina. The statute goes on to state that the amount of the charge must be determined by the Commission based upon the amount of funding necessary to accomplish the purposes of the article and provide dual party telephone relay services on a continuous basis. In keeping with Section 58-9-2530(A) (Supp. 2005) this Commission has approved a series of adjustments to the surcharge.

Currently the surcharge is \$0.15 per month per line. Budget Option #2 as described in ORS' June 20, 2006 letter would maintain this level, while recognizing the increase in program costs, including cost-of-living increases, increased rent costs, and increased outreach costs with regard to the TEDP Distribution Program. This option also reflects a reduction from 300 CapTel phones to 150 and a reduction from 5 PacMate systems to 3. This action would still, however, satisfy the 130 people currently on the waiting list for CapTel phones without creating a large inventory. With regard to real-time closed captioning, this option would hold the annual funding at its current level, although it would not allow for expansion of service. Budget Option #2 also creates a projected \$202,005 surplus for 2006-2007, which is a greater surplus than those created by any of the other proposed budget options. Basically, Budget Option #2, as was stated, largely funds limited program growth, while keeping the access line charge constant at \$0.15. Accordingly, this is the best of the options proposed for the above-stated reasons, and we adopt it for fiscal year 2006-2007.

This approval is with the understanding, however, that if the approved budget needs to be modified once the pending ORS Request for Proposal (RFP) for real time

closed captioning of selected television broadcasts concludes in the signing of a contract, this Commission will hear from ORS regarding any modified budget needs at that time. In the interim, ORS will provide monthly reports to the Commission regarding its progress in the matter of this RFP.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

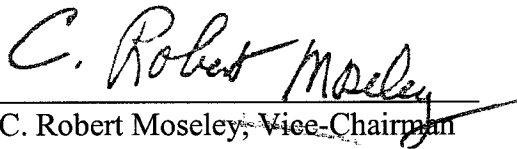
BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



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G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTEST:



C. Robert Moseley, Vice-Chairman

(SEAL)